

DEFENSE DIVISION  
RECORDED MAIL

1991  
JULY 6

**Pakistan arrests rebellious Kashmir leader**  
ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani authorities sacked and arrested Pakistani rebel leader Prime Minister Muhammed Hussain Rathore. Rathore, an adviser to the prime minister said, The Pakistan Press International (UPI) news agency quoted finance adviser Latif Akbar as saying in the Kashmir state capital Muzaffarabad that Mr. Rathore was arrested on Friday afternoon. No confirmation was immediately available from Pakistani authorities who had said they would not arrest Mr. Rathore for another regional election last weekend which he said were rigged by the central election commission to defeat his party. Mr. Rathore's arrest was later confirmed by the "All Jammu and Kashmir" president's household in Muzaffarabad, the official APP news agency said. The state's figurehead President Ghulam Ali Qayyam, who also leads the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and wants to be the next premier, later left for Islamabad, a member of his staff said. Pakistan's Kashmir Affairs Minister Mehmud Ahmad Khan said earlier in Islamabad it was clear Mr. Rathore was trying to create a situation where there could be bloodshed.

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NKA (R) — Turkey's new  
ant prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz  
dubbed a resounding vote of confi-  
dence from parliament Friday.  
Chancellor Speaker Kaya Erdem  
refuted an announcement broadcast  
in late night television, said deputies in  
the 450-seat chamber had cast 265  
votes for the government formed  
by Mr. Yilmaz 12 days ago and  
33 against.

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Israelis  
arrive in Lod  
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OD (AP) — Four young Israelis  
held by militants in Nida  
last week, returned here Friday  
had been praised for acting "like  
soldiers in battle" during their  
seizure. One of the Israelis, 21-  
year-old Yair Yitzhak, was held  
hostage for six days. Three others  
suffered bullet wounds when milit-  
ants abducted their group from a  
houseboat in the troubled Indian  
Lake of Kashmir. The Israelis  
brought their attackers and seized  
a handgun. One Israeli and a  
hostage were killed in  
the firefight.

**Polisario reshuffles  
Sahara 'government'**

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario  
front, which has fought Morocco  
for 15 years to seek independence  
under Western Sahara, announced a  
newly constituted "government" Friday.  
In a statement received by Reuters  
head in Algiers, a 13-member  
administration still headed by  
second wif, Mahfoud Ali Belhadj. Most of  
the members were drawn from a  
team appointed on June 20 in the  
run-up to a referendum to give  
the former Spanish territory's  
40,000 people a choice between  
independence or integration with  
Morocco. The referendum is ex-  
pected early next year.

**Turkish troops kill  
Kurdish separatist**

DIYABAKIR, Turkey (R) —  
Turkish troops shot dead a Kurdish  
separatist and captured  
in Bamother Friday, officials said.  
Provincial authorities said a rebel  
was killed in a clash between  
the group and a Kurdish Workers  
Party group trying to cross the  
Turkish-Iraqi border. The rest of  
the group escaped. A second  
was killed, wanted for several killings  
of in 1989, was arrested near Habur  
village, crossing the Iraqi border. A  
third surrendered to troops in  
irnak, 50 kilometers north of  
Habur. More than 3,000 people  
including civilians have been killed  
since Kurds in Turkey launched  
a campaign for independence  
in 1984.

**M. gets OK  
to build cars  
in Egypt**

AIR JET (AP) — General  
Motors Corp. (G.M.) will begin  
an assembly of medium-size cars in  
the Egypt in two years, the automaker  
has said. General Motors  
SAE, currently builds  
the light-and-medium-duty trucks  
and small buses for the local  
market. In 1990, the company  
will build about 8,400 trucks and  
cars. G.M. said the subsidiary  
of received Egyptian government  
approval to build cars beginning  
in 1993 with volume increasing to  
about 5,000 cars a year by 1996, a  
half million vehicles. The  
type of vehicle hasn't been deter-  
mined, but it is expected to be  
about the size of a Pontiac Sun-  
bird in the United States or the  
Vauxhall Vectra in Europe. There  
will be a modest \$3 million invest-  
ment in the Egyptian factory to  
handle car production, G.M.  
spokesman John Pekarek said.  
G.M. holds 31 per cent and man-  
ages responsibility of G.M.  
of Egypt with Isuzu Motors Ltd.  
is, a Japanese automaker holding the  
remaining 49 per cent.

**Two more held  
in Gandhi murder**

NEW DELHI (AP) — Two more  
people were arrested Friday in  
the killing of former Prime Minister  
Rajiv Gandhi, bringing to 10  
the number of people taken into  
custody, United News of India  
said. Some 10 men and a teenage girl were arrested in  
New Delhi, the news agency said.  
They did not identify them by name.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1991, THU AL HIGEH 24, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Palestinians give up last bases in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — The  
Lebanese Army occupied the last  
Palestinian guerrilla positions in  
South Lebanon Friday, advancing to  
the edge of Palestinian refugee

Troops swept through the positions  
under a peace pact agreed Thursday  
to end four days of fighting for bases  
surrounding refugee camps near  
Sidon, 40 kilometers south of Beirut.

Hospital sources said 73 people  
were killed and 200 wounded in  
battles for control of the positions. Most  
of the dead and wounded were  
Palestinians.

The guerrillas' withdrawal to the  
refugee camps at Mich Mich and Ain  
Hilweh places the Lebanese army across  
infiltration routes used by the fighters  
to attack Israel and its allies.

Defense Minister Michel Al Murr  
said in a statement the army completed  
its deployment after Palestinian  
guerrillas evacuated their last  
positions outside the camps.

Hundreds of commandos first  
seized a road into Mich Mich village,  
next to the refugee camp on Sidon's  
eastern edge. They then fanned out to  
take other routes.

After four days of battle, the  
Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)  
accepted that its fighters would be  
restricted to the two camps near  
Sidon, and weapons used to defend  
them against Israeli raids would be  
moved out of the country.

From his headquarters in Tunis,  
PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat declared  
his full backing of the accord  
announced Thursday evening.

"It marked a success for the government  
in its efforts to assert its authority in  
the camps," said a fighter who identified himself only as

Imad.

Military sources said the army de-  
tained at least 500 Palestinians in the  
Sidon region since it moved south  
Monday.

Helmeted troops toured Sidon in  
jeeps and raided suspected guerrilla  
hideouts in the city of 300,000 people.

The accord between the PLO and  
the government will leave the 5,000  
guerrillas equipped only with automatic  
rifles.

Their heavy weapons are to be  
assembled at the army-controlled village  
of Bramiyyeh, east of Sidon, Saturday until a decision is made on  
where to send them.

Possibilities include Tunisia and  
Yemen, where the PLO has military  
camps.

Army officials in Sidon said the  
weapons to be handed over include  
anti-aircraft guns, mortars, recoilless  
cannons and rocket-propelled  
missiles.

The guerrillas lost most of their  
howitzers and multi-barreled rocket  
launchers in the fighting.

Zeid Webbeh, Lebanon representative  
of the PLO, said Friday the  
PLO would start collecting its heavy  
and medium weapons within 48 hours  
under army supervision.

He told Reuters the PLO was still  
considering what to do with the arms  
and its fighters. The weapons could be  
shipped abroad and fighters might be  
evacuated from Lebanon, Mr. Webbeh added.

Mr. Webbeh, who said the army  
had not yet released some 400 Palestinians  
captured in the last few days as  
promised by the government, blamed  
the United States for the flare-up.

Mr. Said said Mr. Madani had  
told him just as he was being  
arrested: "Guard the FIS on the  
path of legality and against going  
underground. Do not let it deviate  
from this path."

Last Friday Mr. Madani threatened  
to call for holy war unless the army,  
enforcing a state of siege after at least 40 people  
died in FIS-inspired protests, returned to  
harras.

More than 25,000 bearded fundamentalists  
streamed from the mosque and surrounding area  
after prayers which should normally  
have been led by Mr. Béchadj. Despite  
the fervour, the military presence in the city,  
celebrating its 25th anniversary of independence  
from France, was at a minimum. Armed police outside  
the security headquarters near the mosque appeared relaxed  
as the crowds headed home.

Mr. Said told thousands of  
worshippers gathered at an  
Algiers mosque for weekly  
prayers that the movement was  
prepared to go underground if  
the government "persists in this  
plot to suffocate it."

"If the authorities insist on

## Algerian Islamists continue to press hard line as violence ebbs

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A Muslim  
fundamentalist leader Friday  
called for a "holy war" against  
the government if it continued its  
sweeping crackdown on the  
Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"We are for dialogue, but if the  
authorities persist in their aggressive  
attitude against the front, to  
weaken and eliminate it, we will  
call for a 'jihad,'" said Mr.  
Mohammad Said, the party's  
fourth ranking leader.

The top two leaders of the  
fundamentalist party were  
arrested Sunday after they made  
similar calls for a holy war a  
week earlier. More than 1,300 fundamentalist  
supporters also were arrested  
over five days, and security forces seized the front's  
headquarters.

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Unopposed Mandela  
named ANC president

DURBAN (AP) — Nelson Mandela  
was named on Friday president  
of the African National Congress  
(ANC) a position that  
should give him greater authority  
to negotiate with the white-led  
government.

More than 2,000 delegates  
leapt to their feet in jubilation  
when the head of the ANC's  
electoral commission, Charles  
Ntsepa, announced Mr. Mandela's  
selection from a dais draped in  
the ANC colours of green, gold  
and black. Mr. Mandela was the  
only nominee for the presidency,  
so his name did not appear on the  
ballot.

"No ballot was necessary," Mr.  
Ntsepa said.

Mr. Mandela's longtime friend,  
Walter Sisulu, 79, easily defeated  
hardline communist party member  
Harry Gwala for the number  
two post of deputy president. Mr.  
Sisulu received 1,567 votes to 412  
for Mr. Gwala.

The results reflect the control  
over the ANC by Mr. Mandela,  
73, and other old-guard comrades  
whose names have become synonymous  
with the black majority's struggle for political  
power.

Their election to the ANC's  
most powerful posts should keep  
the group on a relatively moderate  
path as it heads towards negotiations  
with the government on a new  
constitution ending white

cutting off the heads of the front,  
they will bear the responsibility  
for what happens," said Mr. Said,  
"and unfortunately it is Algeria  
which will pay the price."

Shouts of "Allahu Akbar"  
echoed through the Bab Al Oued  
stronghold of the FIS as Mr.  
Said led a collective cry for the  
release of the front's leaders.

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In torrid heat, FIS militants  
handed round an appeal for help  
for those arrested and money for  
lawyers. The statement promised  
an open meeting of FIS leaders  
next week to outline its strategy  
for legal opposition.

U.N. chief attempts to  
break Cyprus deadlock

NICOSIA (AP) — The U.N.  
secretary-general pressed Greek  
and Turkish Cypriots Friday to  
intensify efforts to reunite the  
war-divided island and the Greek  
Cypriot leader said there would be  
"a lot of movement" in the  
weeks ahead.

Since the arrests the army has  
progressively withdrawn tanks  
and troops and night-time gunfire  
and curfew violations appear to  
have ended. The military  
announced Friday that from Sunday  
the curfew would be shortened  
by one hour to run from  
midnight to 3:30 a.m.

Prime Minister Sidahmad  
Ghazali, appointed by President  
Chadli Benjedid on June 5, told  
parliament Thursday that Algeria's  
transition to multi-party  
democracy would continue. He  
repeated his promise to hold  
postponed parliamentary elections  
before the end of the year.

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for legal opposition.

Hardliners such as Mr. Gwala  
negotiate the government and fear  
negotiations could force the ANC  
to make too many concessions.

Mr. Mandela had been the  
de facto leader of the ANC in his  
role of deputy president, which  
he assumed after his release from  
prison in February 1990.

The outgoing president, Oliver  
Tambo, has been in poor health  
since suffering a stroke two years  
ago and was given the largely  
honorary post of ANC national  
secretary.

Mr. Mandela's charisma, good  
relationship with President F.W.  
De Klerk, and wide support  
among both older moderates and  
young militants made him the  
obvious choice for the presidency.

Voting lasted more than four  
hours as the more than 2,200  
delegates stood in the blazing sun  
to mark ballots in private voting  
booths. The mood inside the  
huge hall at the University of  
Durban-Westville campus was jubilant  
as the results were announced.

Delegates jumped to their feet  
and broke into songs and dances  
after each winner's name was  
called. Mr. Mandela smiled but  
said nothing. His wife, Winnie,  
rushed to the stage and hugged him.

Their election to the ANC's  
most powerful posts should keep  
the group on a relatively moderate  
path as it heads towards negotiations  
with the government on a new  
constitution ending white

## Li arrives today; peace efforts and bilateral ties key themes

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with Agency dispatches

AMMAN — Chinese Prime Minister  
Li Peng arrives here today on a  
two-day visit during which he will  
discuss with Jordanian leaders various  
Middle Eastern issues as well as  
bilateral relations.

Mr. Li, the first Chinese prime  
minister to visit the Middle East, is  
expected to be received by His Majesty  
King Hussein.

In comments made in Cairo Friday,  
Mr. Li promised to take a positive  
stance at big-power talks on Middle  
East arms controls but said restrictions  
should be linked to peace moves.

"We believe that the arms control  
talks in this region should be linked to  
the peace process ... because only by  
achieving peace can we live up to the  
aspirations of the people of the Middle  
East," Mr. Li said.

"China will take a positive  
approach towards the arms control  
meeting in Paris," he told a news  
conference.

The five permanent members of

excellent relations with some of the  
countries in the region.

"There is strong concern in Beijing  
that China's international role had been  
marginalized during the Gulf  
crisis and war," said a political observer.

Mr. Li said any disarmament proposal  
should be "balanced, comprehensive  
and effective."

"By comprehensive we mean that  
all countries should be put under  
control ... and all types of weapons  
should be put under control," he said.

The Chinese premier, without  
naming Israel, said that the Jewish  
state currently has a military edge  
over the Arabs and warned that this  
"imbalance" could cause a "security  
threat" to the region.

"We must allow continuing to  
export weapons to those countries  
that have large military arsenals while  
forbidding the export of weapons to  
some other countries that want to  
make those import of weapons just  
for the purpose of self-defence," Mr.  
Li said.

The note from the Iraqi leader  
arrived as a special commission  
dealt to the Security Council that  
Iraqi behaviour towards teams searching  
for uranium-enrichment equipment  
fell short of what was required.

The Security Council planned an  
informal discussion on Friday on  
President Saddam's note and the  
report, prepared by Rolf Ekeus, director  
of the U.N. special commission in  
charge of Iraq's weapons of mass  
destruction.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq's response to  
"objects" which the U.N. teams  
wanted to inspect on June 28 "fall  
short of what had been called for by  
the Security Council."

He did not recommend any specific  
action but said that assurances  
from Iraq of future compliance  
speaking on condition of anonymity.

The five permanent members of

the U.N. Security Council — the  
United States, the Soviet Union, Britain,  
France and China — are due to  
meet in Paris later this month to  
consider ways of slowing down the  
Middle East arms race.

Mr. Li said any disarmament proposal  
should be "balanced, comprehensive  
and effective."

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# Middle East News

## Iranian demand for uranium stalls agreement with France

PARIS (Agencies) — The last-minute impasse in negotiations to settle a long-standing financial dispute between France and Iran is reportedly due to an Iranian demand for enriched uranium as part of the deal, according to French press reports.

The two countries were on the verge of signing an accord on Wednesday, but the Iranian demand quashed hopes of an immediate settlement, the newspaper *Le Monde* reported.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati flew back to Tehran Thursday empty-handed. He had arrived here Tuesday to sign the agreement settling the billion-dollar-plus dispute, which dates to the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Negotiators have worked since then to come to terms with Iran's demand for reimbursement plus back interest of a \$1 billion loan made in 1974 to France for a 10 per cent share in the consortium Eurodif which supplies enriched uranium. French companies have, in turn, demanded compensation for contracts unilaterally cancelled after the Iranian revolution.

Foreign Ministry officials have said there was one sticking point

holding up the accord. *Le Monde* said that point was Iran's sudden demand for enriched uranium and a role in Eurodif, which France rejects.

The demand was all the more surprising because Iran does not have functioning nuclear reactors in which to use enriched uranium, *Le Monde* reported. The Islamic Republic cancelled plans by toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to develop a nuclear programme.

The demand transformed what has been an economic imbroglio into a political problem.

The left-wing newspaper *Liberation* quoted a negotiator denying that the Iranian demand was at the source of the impasse, without clearly denying that the demand had been made.

"The Iranians feel that Eurodif has asked for too many guarantees, and it is over that that there is a blockage," *Liberation* quoted the unidentified negotiator as saying.

The signing of the accord is to be the final step in a process of normalising relations at all levels. It is expected to provide a green light for large-scale French participation in Iran's reconstruction following the Iran-Iraq war.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard told journalists Thursday that only one problem — "a grain of sand" — remained to be resolved in the dispute.

He declined to say what the problem was.

"This situation presents a political problem ... at a time when France has just announced its intention to sign the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," *Les Echos* said.

Mr. Velayati said Wednesday there were "technical problems" in the way of a final accord, but no major obstacles.

On Wednesday President François Mitterrand accepted an invitation from President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to visit Iran before the end of the year, French officials said.

Mr. Mitterrand would be the first Western head of state, apart from Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, to pay an official visit to Tehran since the Islamic revolution, opening the way to a return visit by Mr. Rafsanjani.

The dispute and lack of an agreement will not interfere with Mr. Mitterrand's plans to visit Iran, officials said.

Foreign Ministry officials have said there was one sticking point

## Israelis rescue released researchers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli helicopters rescued a U.S.-sponsored team of researchers from a sinking boat in the Gulf of Aqaba Friday, a day after they were freed from detention in a legal scrap with Egyptian authorities.

An Israeli army spokesman said helicopters flew to the research vessel "Sue Allen" and evacuated the 13 researchers to the Israeli port of Eilat. There were no reports of injuries.

One of the rescued researchers, Yehuda Bneiyyahu, told Israel's army radio station that they called for help after the boat's engines stopped and they began drifting in stormy seas.

"The engine room was flooded ... and the boat started rocking from side to side," he said. "The waves were very high and we all put on life vests and were prepared to jump overboard."

"The instrument panel began smoking and it seems all the wires were burnt," he said. "Then the helicopters arrived and began evacuating us."

"It was not a very pleasant situation," he added.

## 'Nothing can stop' U.S., Bush says

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan (Agencies) — President George Bush Thursday joined U.S. independence day festivities that marked the Gulf war victory over Iraq and said the tributes indicated a revived American patriotic spirit.

Basking in a wave of nationalistic fervour, Mr. Bush said the U.S.-led victory proved to the world that the United States could prevail over any foe. "If we didn't know it before Desert Storm, we know it now: nothing can stop us," said Mr. Bush, who called the United States "a land respected and revered by the rest of the world."

Under the U.N. ceasefire agreement, Iraq must destroy all weapons of mass destruction and its ability to develop them.

On Wednesday, Mr. Bush presented prestigious medals to his top Gulf war generals and admirals.

At a White House awards ceremony attended by ambassadors from several countries that sent troops to the Gulf, Mr. Bush first gave the presidential medal of freedom to generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell.

Mrs. Bush helped with the presentations, borrowing her husband's eyeglasses to see better as she fastened the gold, blue and white decorations on the two military officers.

## Kuwait defence minister sees 'sabotage' threat

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait's defence minister said in an interview published Friday that there had been minor shooting incidents along the border with Iraq, but the main threat came from sabotage.

Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, Al Sabah, in a wide-ranging interview with the government-backed newspaper *Salt Al Kuwait* published in London, said many Kuwaiti officers have been asked to retire and that the new military would include women.

Sheikh Ali defended the military leadership's decision to flee in the face of the Iraqi invasion last August, and said stateless Arabs who fought to defend Kuwait might be granted citizenship.

The minister did not give details of the shooting incidents but described them as "not threatening."

He said the danger from the Iraqi military did not necessarily come from troops positioned near the border but from its sheer size and Iraq "threats" to resort to

sabotage.

The minister said not only Iraq, but two other Arab groups that he did not identify had threatened to attack Kuwaiti interests both inside and outside the country.

The fifth column is still inside Kuwait," Sheikh Ali said.

To counter this threat, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Egypt and Syria will meet Tuesday to work out the final details of a security agreement, he said.

The initial accord reached in March crumbled, reportedly over Egyptian and Syrian pique at Kuwait's obvious preference for Western forces.

The new agreement is expected to be on a much reduced scale, with just 7,000 Arab troops stationed in the country.

Most of the 3,700 U.S. soldiers here are scheduled to leave Sept. 1, but the U.S. military still has extensive forces in the region.

Sheikh Ali said the GCC com-

tries — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — should coordinate weapons purchases and improve ties with Iran for their own security.

The minister said the arms purchases started while the government was in exile in Taif, Saudi Arabia, will continue with a strong emphasis on high-tech weapons, which will mean an extended reliance on outside help.

Sheikh Ali said more women than men had responded to the call for volunteers to join the military. He said the women would be trained for up to six months and probably allowed into the military eventually, but for the moment remain without ranks.

He said officers that had served in the military for over 20 years would be asked to retire to give a chance to others. He said it did not mean a "lack of efficiency" but a need for new blood.

The minister accused Iraq of "double-crossing" Kuwait by not returning all prisoners of war.

## Text of Arafat's assurances to Nathan

TUNIS (R) — Following are excerpts from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's written answers to questions by Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan.

Mr. Nathan released the text, in English and Arabic, after their talks in Tunis Thursday night.

Direct negotiations with Israel: "... We are ready to establish direct talks without preconditions with the government of Israel ..."

Violence: "When the negotiations between the government of Israel and the representatives of the PLO start, we will do whatever is in our capacity to prevent acts of violence which might be committed by Palestinian elements during the said period of negotiations. We expect the Israeli government to make the same commitment."

Palestinian charter on Israel: "Before signing the final peace agreement between the government of Israel and the PLO, the two parties declare their readiness to cancel and/or to change all clauses in their basic political and constitutional documents that may be offensive or threaten the security of Israel and the State of Palestine ..."

PLO representation: "... As we are a democratic society, we are ready to hold a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the occupied territories and wherever the Palestinians reside ... we accept whatever this people in and outside the occupied territories decide."

Palestinian autonomy before full statehood: "There are many suggested solutions. But the basis of success will depend on the willingness of the parties to negotiate sincerely to arrive at peace and to establish out



Yasser Arafat



Abie Nathan

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqi team in Turkey for pipeline talk

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi delegation headed by Oil Minister Taha Hammoud is in Turkey for talks on to Iraqi oil pipelines shut down during the Gulf crisis, the Anatolian news agency said Friday. Mr. Hammoud will also discuss compensation for Turkey's losses from the crisis, estimated at \$6.6 billion. Mr. Anatolian said, but gave no details. Before its invasion of Kuwait last August, Iraq was one of Turkey's main trading partners. Turkey has said the pipelines, which can carry 1.6 million barrels of crude oil per day, will not be reopened unless United Nations trade sanctions against Iraq are lifted. Mr. Anatolian quoted Turkish government officials as saying the talks might also cover a new export credit line for Iraq. Turkey sold \$5 million worth of food to Iraq last month. Essential items are exempt from the U.N. embargo. The Anatolian News Agency said Iraq was eager to restore normal ties with Turkey but the first move had to come from Ankara.

### Woman to challenge Peres, Rabin

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ms. Orr-Namir, the Labour Party's woman legislator, has announced she will seek the party leadership, challenging traditional rivals Mr. Shimon Peres and Mr. Yitzhak Rabin. Ms. Namir, 61, told Israeli radio Friday it is time for the centre-left party to put aside the long-running fight for power between the two former prime ministers. "I think this is the struggle between Mr. Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Shimon Peres for the last 17 years has damaged ... the Labour Party," she said.

"I think we must take far better care of our party," Ms. Namir said. "I think the announcement came two days after Mr. Rabin said he would again seek to unseat Mr. Peres as party leader. He has tried to repeat the post since 1977, when he resigned as prime minister amid a scandal over an illegal bank account held by his wife. Ms. Namir, who heads the parliament's labour and social affairs committee, will face an uphill struggle for Labour's leadership. In Israel, each party's members are ranked by number. Although Ms. Namir is Labour's top woman legislator, she is only number eight in the party's list.

### Switzerland refuses entry to dissident Moroccan

BERNE (R) — Dissident Moroccan writer Abdellatif Diouri, who has written a book detailing the wealth of King Hassan, has been refused entry into Switzerland, the Swiss Justice Ministry said Thursday. A lawyer for Mr. Diouri, expelled from France to Gabon last month, said last week he had applied on his behalf for permanent residence in Switzerland. Justice ministry spokesman Jurg Kistler said the reason given for the refusal was the fact that there were no links between Mr. Diouri and Switzerland. He also cited security considerations. Mr. Diouri, a resident of France for 17 years, was expelled to Gabon June 20 as he was about to publish his book describing the personal fortune of his country's sovereign. The French government said he had made contacts with the Iraqi and Libyan secret services; in breach of his political refugee status. In France, Mr. Diouri's publisher said vandals had broken into one of his Paris bookshops, damaging equipment and stealing documents. Denis Piron, director of editions L'Harmattan, said in a statement it was not clear if the break-in was connected with the coming book, which he has vowed to print despite being told by the French government not to bring it out in France.

### Translator of "The Satanic Verses" attacked

MILAN (R) — The Italian translator of the novel "The Satanic Verses", whose British author Salman Rushdie is under an Iranian death threat for alleged blasphemy against Islam, was knifed in his Milan flat Wednesday. Mr. Ettore Caprioli, 61, suffered cuts to the neck, arms and chest and was also kicked and beaten on the head by a man who said he was an Iranian, police said. Mr. Caprioli was taken to hospital and was expected to recover within 20 days. His attacker fled. Police said the man telephoned Mr. Caprioli 10 days ago, told him he was an Iranian and made an appointment to discuss a translation project. Indian-born Rushdie, 43, went into hiding more than two years ago after Iran's Revolutionary Leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, told Muslims to kill him for blasphemy in his novel. Mr. Caprioli, who translated the book in 1989 for the Mondadori Publishing House, was given police protection for several months last year after receiving threats from Islamic fundamentalists. In May, Mr. Rushdie rejected fresh calls to withdraw his novel, saying this would refuel controversy. He said it would also make every Muslim in Britain guilty of censorship by intimidation.

### Solar supplier laying off workers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Luz International, by far the world's leading supplier of solar electricity, said Friday it was preparing to lay off 600 workers in the United States and Israel, more than half its workforce. Gabi Kenan, deputy director-general of the Israeli subsidiary, said the U.S.-based firm was forced to lay off 250 employees in California and put 350 in Israel on one-month's notice when it was refused an extension on loans. The creditors fear Luz will not be able to complete a southern California plant by the end of the year — when state tax credits given companies that minimise reliance on fossil fuels will expire. Mr. Kenan said, "We thought we could finish the plant by year's end. We've been in long, cozy negotiations with our creditors and now suddenly they've turned on us." Luz's only client is the southern California Edison Company, for which it provides one per cent of the electric load. This is more than 90 per cent of the world's solar electricity production. Luz, which runs nine solar energy plants in southern California, has been building its 10th plant. The Israeli subsidiary makes solar generating equipment for installation at the California plants. The company made profits from 1987 to 1989 but lost money since, Mr. Kenan said. "If the real price of oil is not increasing, it is very difficult to finance solar plants."

### Other flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 ..... Beirut (RJ) ..... 240 / 200  
12:30 ..... Corfu (MS) ..... 180 / 120  
17:58 ..... Paris (AZ) ..... 530 / 400  
22:00 ..... Paris (AF) ..... 530 / 220

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 ..... Beirut (RJ) ..... 240 / 200  
12:00 ..... Corfu (MS) ..... 180 / 120  
12:00 ..... Venes. Franklin (RJ) ..... 210 / 160  
12:30 ..... Brussels (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
12:45 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ) ..... 185 / 140  
12:50 ..... Rome, Madrid (RJ) ..... 300 / 250  
14:00 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ) ..... 400 / 350  
14:00 ..... Cairo (RJ) ..... 220 / 180  
14:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ) ..... 150 / 100  
21:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) ..... 140 / 100  
21:30 ..... Bahrain (RJ) ..... 330 / 300

Ola (RJ) ..... 330 / 300  
Onion (dry) ..... 330 / 300  
Orange ..... 360 / 300  
Peach ..... 300 / 250  
Plums ..... 300 / 250  
Pepper (red) ..... 200 / 150  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 240 / 180  
Potato ..... 300 / 250

Rice ..... 300 / 250  
Sage ..... 600 / 500  
Sweet onion ..... 280 / 220  
Tomatoes ..... 240 / 190  
Watermelons ..... 120 / 100

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) ..... 240 / 200  
10:40 ..... Damascus (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
10:40 ..... New Delhi (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
10:40 ..... Jeddah (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
10:45 ..... Dhahran (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
11:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
11:20 ..... Beirut (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
12:30 ..... London (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
12:40 ..... Cairo (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
12:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ) ..... 180 / 120  
19:25 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) ..... 280 / 220  
19:25 ..... Paris (AF) ..... 680 / 500

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 ..... Beirut (ME) ..... 300 / 250  
12:00 ..... Sanaa (IY) ..... 300 / 250  
14:00 ..... Cairo (MS) ..... 300 / 250  
14:00 ..... Paris (AF) ..... 240 / 180

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in £ per kg.

Apple ..... 680 / 500

Apricot ..... 450 / 350

Banana ..... 500 / 450

Banana (Mokhanna) ..... 530 / 400

Beans ..... 530 / 220

Carrot ..... 150 / 100

Cauliflower ..... 240 / 200

C

## Petra Bank defendants' assets ordered confiscated

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Assets owned by some of the key defendants in the Petra Bank case have been confiscated by the committee in charge of liquidating the bank's sources close to the court said.

"The sources could not give any estimated figure of the value of the assets ordered seized, but they confirmed that real estate and company shares owned by former Petra Bank Chairman and General Manager Ahmad Al Chalabi and several of his brothers and family members as well as several senior officials of the Chalabi administration of the bank would be confiscated.

"The confiscation order came after some of the Chalabi family members responded to summons to appear before the liquidation committee," said one of the sources. "There is enough and more of evidence to prove that they were direct as well as indirect beneficiaries of clandestine deals conducted by Petra Bank," added the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A sprawling mansion owned by Mr. Chalabi, who is being tried in absentia along with other defendants by the Military Court, is among the assets seized by the committee, another source said. The building, constructed with direct financing from Petra Bank, is

estimated to have a market value of JD 2 million.

The Military Court itself has issued orders for the seizure of the property in real estate and other assets of some of the Petra Bank case defendants, whose whereabouts, in a strictly legal sense, were unknown.

The cases involve charges of embezzlement of depositors' funds and speculation with the Jordanian currency and share.

Property and stocks owned by Hassan Abdul Aziz, who served in the Chalabi management of Petra Bank as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank (for a short period), have also been seized, the source said. Mr. Abdul Aziz is among those tried in court in Jordan.

Mr. Chalabi, an Iraqi-born banker, left Jordan in August 1989, a few days after the Economic Security Committee (ESC) ordered the take-over of the financially troubled Petra Bank as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank. The committee originally sought to merge the two, but the situation at Petra Bank did not permit such a merger.

Several close confidants of Mr. Chalabi managed to flee the country before the cases could be brought to court and formal charges could be filed against them.

The government is in touch with Interpol and foreign countries seeking the extradition of those tried in absentia, but

officials doubt whether the efforts would succeed in view of the influence that the defendants exert in their host countries.

Meanwhile, a special committee is investigating the affairs of the Jordan Gulf Bank with a view to "determining the exact status of its affairs and who did what in the bank," a source told the Jordan Times.

"It is too early to make any comment," added the source. The ESC annulled its order to merge Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank and placed Petra Bank under liquidation in April last year.

While the Petra liquidation process is continuing, the Jordan Gulf Bank continues to function normally. It has about 20 branches in Jordan, with 500 employees.

Banking experts estimate the losses incurred by the Jordan Gulf Bank at around JD 40 million, compared to JD 300 million or more in the case of Petra Bank.

"Many ideas and proposals have been floated to ensure that the Jordan Gulf Bank continues to survive," said a banking official. "These include merger with one or more other banks or turning the bank into a specialised institution," said the official.

"But, as things stand now, the future of the Jordan Gulf Bank depends on the findings of the committee investigating its affairs."

## RJ considers privatisation

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is considering a plan to privatise Royal Jordanian (RJ) with the help of the governments of Oman and Brunei and international institutions, sources close to the national carrier said Wednesday.

The sources said RJ had already received \$20 million from Brunei, which has also pledged an additional \$35 million as loans that could be transformed into shares if and when the airline is privatised. They said the plan envisages 51 per cent Jordanian ownership with seven to eight per cent government ownership with the remainder in foreign investment.

If the airline is turned into a public-share holding company, sources said, it will be split into various companies, including flight services, catering and the duty free shop at the Queen Alia Airport. RJ, which has an estimated \$250 million debt, is renting out three of its leased planes in an effort to cover its

losses, exacerbated by the Gulf crisis, and reduce expenditures. It has also reached agreement with a consortium of predominantly European banks to reduce monthly payments on three other airplanes.

Last April, creditor banks sought a court order to seize six of the airline's airplanes for its failure to honour due payments on its debt. Negotiations between the airline's representatives, including former Chairman and Chief Executive Ali Ghadour, and creditors produced new arrangements for debt repayment.

Earlier, RJ denied reports in the local press that it was holding talks with Air France or other foreign airlines to take shares in RJ once it was privatised. The airline did not deny enlisting the help of foreign governments or international institutions to save the troubled air carrier which lost an additional \$100 million as result of the Gulf crisis.

"RJ contacted several international firms in order to help study the prospect of privatisation, but the whole matter was

postponed indefinitely following the eruption of the Gulf crisis," RJ Director-General Husam Abu Ghabazaleh said last month.

"Once the government is convinced of the idea, then RJ's management can take the proper decision in this regard," he added.

Despite its financial liability, many officials argue that the airline must be kept afloat because it is a major employer in the country which is grappling with a soaring unemployment rate of over 20 per cent.

"If privatisation is not the solution for the airline then the government must find another one," said Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabariti. He warned against "dire social consequences" if the airline does not receive support since it employs 5,000 persons and supports their families.

Mr. Kabariti said one of the alternatives to privatisation was the establishment of an aviation ministry which would have a budget incorporating the airline's budget.

## 300 demonstrate against trials in Kuwait

## Marchers protest to U.N. after being kept away from embassy

By Serene Hadass  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Marchers on Thursday were prevented by police from staging a demonstration in front of the Kuwaiti Embassy to protest human rights violations against Jordanians, Palestinians and other Arab nationals, for their alleged collaboration with the Iraqi occupying forces.

According to the organisers of the march, the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, police prevented a number of buses carrying demonstrators from entering West Amman, where the embassy is located, to join the protest.

Around 300 demonstrators, dismayed by the police action, marched instead to the United Nations building in Shmeisani, chanting slogans and carrying banners that called for an immediate halt to what they described as "arbitrary" trials against Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait.

There was no official comment from the police on why they prevented the demonstrators from going to the Kuwaiti Embassy, but the measure was apparently taken to protect the mission and to prevent any violence from taking place around the embassy.

"We will not succumb to the cowardly acts of revenge," "Where is the Arab League?", "Stop the arbitrary killings in

Kuwait," read some of the banners carried by the demonstrators.

The demonstrators also called on humanitarian organisations worldwide to condemn the acts of revenge and human rights violations against non-Kuwaitis and strongly demanded that the world community put an end to the "ridiculous" trials.

Representatives of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Defence of Human Rights presented the managing director of the United Nations office in Amman a protest memorandum addressed to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The memo urged the

secretary general to intervene on behalf of the people who stand trial in Kuwait.

Bowing to international pressure, the emir of Kuwait recently commuted the death sentences of 29 alleged collaborators to life imprisonment. About 450 people, mostly of Palestinian and Jordanian origins, stand to face trial in Kuwaiti courts.

Demonstrators dispersed after handing over the memorandum to the United Nations representative, but the organisers of the march vowed that they would send a "strong protest message" to the prime minister and reschedule another demonstration at a later date.

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"We will not succumb to the cowardly acts of revenge," "Where is the Arab League?", "Stop the arbitrary killings in

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shokhini, Mohammed Al Jaloos and Rifa'i Al Razzaz at Abdulla Hameed Shokhini Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maher Al Shalabi at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Aanab at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel — 1-5 p.m.

### FILMS

- ★ German video for children entitled "Rosi und die Stadt" at Goethe Institute — 4 p.m.
- ★ German film entitled "Haus ohne Hinter" (English-subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

## King congratulates Venezuela, U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to President of Venezuela Carlos Andres Perez congratulating him on his country's independence day and wishing him and the people of Venezuela continued progress and prosperity.

On Thursday, the King sent a congratulatory cable to the United States President George Bush on his country's independence day.

The King voiced hope that the declared U.S. commitment to establish a just and durable peace in the region, through solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, could draw closer Jordan's and U.S. perceptions of the issue of peace.

The King said: "Your assurance of the U.S. commitment to implement international legitimacy and to adhere to the U.N. Security Council resolutions enhances our conviction that peace will prevail in the region."

## National Music Conservatory organises courses

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Music Conservatory Noor Al Hussein Foundation is organising short music courses in playing instrument, singing and movement, as well as two series of comprehensive training courses for teachers of nurseries, kindergartens and primary schools.

A total of 16 four-week courses are launched today. The first 12 will include introductory and advanced lessons in string and wind instruments, oud playing, fundamentals of singing, folk dancing, ballet, and rhythmic movements.

The other four courses will concentrate over a period of 15 working days on music reading according to Kodaly's method and Orff's principles in music education, application of percussion instruments in music education, and music activities for nursery and kindergarten teachers.

The National Music Conservatory will launch on Aug. 3 the fourth summer music camp for children aged 4-15 years. Its aim is to discover children's musical aptitude and develop their musical skills.

Activities of the two-week camp will include music reading, writing and ear training, playing simple percussion instruments and the recorder. The children will also be introduced to music instruments through films and live performances.

## NHF starts drama course for children

AMMAN (Petra) — The Theatre-in-Education today Project of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) starts today a summer course in creative drama for children aged 6-13 years. The six-week course aims at encouraging and developing the participant's creative abilities.

The course consists of creative drama games, improvisation, rhythm and creative movement, story telling and role playing, creative dance, and puppet theatre. By the end of the course the participants will present some of their newly-acquired skills in the presence of their parents, relatives and friends.

It is known that the Theatre-in-Education Project, which the foundation started in 1987, was launched to promote the dramatic arts in Jordan and to expand children's learning opportunities through the creative medium of drama.

According to the executive board of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has decided to distribute JD64,900 to charitable societies in governorates to help them carry out their programmes and projects.

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## To Geneva with dignity

JORDAN will have an opportunity to gauge how it fares internationally in the wake of our return to democracy and the adoption of the National Charter when it submits its second periodic report on July 17 to the Human Rights Committee in Geneva. The committee is composed of 18 experts elected by the state parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and charged with the mandate of investigating the extent of state parties' adherence to the covenant which Jordan ratified back in 1975. Amman submitted its first report to the committee in 1981 and was questioned then rather extensively on many of the country's legislative and administrative actions with a view to determine its faithful respect for the terms and provisions of this important international human rights instrument. Article 40 of the covenant requests state parties to report on all measures taken or adopted, which give effect to the various civil and political rights recognised by the covenant. This time around, the Jordanian team presenting the country can be expected to be subjected to a battery of carefully drafted inquiries on many of the country's domestic and external policies after taking into consideration and stock Jordan's new democratisation process. Amnesty International (AI), the London-based human rights watchdog group, has already compiled a list of questions that it wants the committee members to put to the Jordanian delegation, which will be headed by our ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, Sharif Fawaz Sharaf. In its 1990 report on Jordan, AI alleged that despite promised reforms and the return of parliamentary democracy, it has not noted significant changes in the human rights situation in Jordan. It also claims that under the existing state of emergency provisions in force over the years, violations had occurred of certain rights mentioned in the covenant and that Jordan has yet to comply fully with the requirements of the ICCPR.

Specifically speaking, Amnesty International maintains that the state of emergency still remains in force and that martial law declared in June of 1967 has yet to be lifted despite a governmental pledge to do so by June of 1990. AI concedes, however, that martial law has been "frozen" ever since December 1989. On the other hand, Amnesty asserts that the defence law in force since 1939 has not been abrogated even though a new draft defence law has been presented to the parliament for consideration. In this vein, it noted that the Lower House of Parliament has approved the new law but that the Upper House has yet to do so. In the cumulative sense, AI maintains that under existing emergency laws, the executive authorities in the country exercise sweeping powers of arrest and detention without trial. The international human rights organisation further charges that several laws that it deems contrary to the ICCPR are still in force, notably the law on the resistance to Communism No. 91 of 1953. It also attacks the martial law court system principally because it does not afford the accused the right of appeal, which is well enshrined in the covenant. Even the National Charter that has just been adopted has not escaped scrutiny. Meanwhile the committee has established a working group to prepare a list of detailed questions to be put to the Jordanian delegation when Jordan's report comes under consideration. Amnesty International is using its strong lobbying powers to inject its own set of questions in addition to the questions that the committee itself is preparing on a wide range of Jordanian domestic legislations and practices including the status of the covenant in Jordanian legislations, elections, political parties, discrimination related issues on the basis of religion or political thought or sex. But, it is fair to state at this juncture that few countries escape the scrutiny of the committee unscathed.

Jordan well poised this time to demonstrate that its civil and political record has indeed taken a dramatic turn to the better in the wake of the return of parliamentary democracy to the country. While we are confident that the final comments of the committee will surely reflect this new reality, we hope that the new government will adopt even further measures to enhance democratic practices and human and civil rights in the Kingdom. The total lifting of martial law, which is expected to be announced within several days, is certainly a big step forward in this regard, even though it might create a legislative vacuum that can be filled only by another temporary law. The important thing remains, however, that this country is moving ahead and as such it is setting good example for others to follow in this area.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Contrary to all positive trends to achieve peace in the Middle East, the Israeli defence minister has just announced that the Jewish state has developed new generations of weapons to be added to its formidable arsenal, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. At the same time the Israeli minister announced that the air to air missiles used by Americans in the Gulf war were in fact developed in Israel, something that reflects that the Jewish state is going ahead with vast development of its military power and is in a race against time to make further accomplishments in this field, the paper said. At the same time, the paper noted, the Americans are demanding that the Syrians should reduce their military force so that no one can stand against the Israelis in any future confrontation, and so that the Israelis can force peace on the Arabs. The paper said that Washington keeps bragging about its desire to give momentum to the peace process, but it is opening the way for Israel to become a superpower and forcing the Arabs to capitulate and succumb to Israel's wishes. The paper said that the American "carrot and the stick" policy should open the eyes of the Arabs to the looming danger.

## Regional security in the Gulf The structure of domestic political power and regional stability

By Yezid Sayigh

IN DISCUSSING regional security, analysts and government officials tend to focus almost exclusively on three dimensions: the foreign policies of the states directly concerned, the actual or potential Western role and issues of arms control and military balance. But an additional and vitally important determinant of regional security is the nature of local governments and of the domestic political systems through which they govern.

What makes this observation especially relevant is that, because real power in most Arab countries rests with narrowly based elites (drawn from family, tribal, ethnic or sectarian minorities, and almost invariably unelected and too often supported by Western nations), incumbent regimes wield a disproportionate impact on the functioning and stability of the regional state system as a whole. The ability of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein almost single-handed to launch his country into two vastly debilitating wars within a decade reveals this relationship most starkly.

### Domestic power and defence policy

While Iraq provides a more violent example of the impact that domestic power can have on regional security, its implications for post-crisis stability in the Gulf are better demonstrated by the case of Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has long based its defence on a costly, high-tech front-line air force. Partly because of its limited population base, but more significantly because of tribal fragmentation and fear for its own survival, the ruling family has deliberately kept its standing army small and balanced it with a parallel force, the National Guard. Such a posture is untenable as a long-term option after the Gulf war, even if outside forces provide a major share of defence for a transitional period.

One lesson of the Gulf crisis is that Saudi Arabia must provide a greater degree of its own self-defence to be secure. Simply to rely on yet more high-tech weaponry, supported by a veritable army of foreign technical personnel, is inadequate. Expanding the standing army, possibly by conscription, is an alternative. Indeed it is one that has been pressed vigorously by Saudi commander general Khalid Bin Sultan among others, who has called for doubling or even trebling the standing army and for stockpiling more weapons.

But, as the experience of Jordan shows, bolstering defence by introducing conscription and universalising the experience of military life for young men subtly shifts the nature of allegiance: it fosters a concept of citizenship and allegiance to the state rather than to the ruling family per se.

Taking the Jordanian experience into consideration, the Saudi leadership cannot involve its citizenry more extensively in national defence without suffering strains in the domestic social and political system. Already, the need to stress Saudi patriotism in order to mobilise the home front during the Gulf crisis has altered the ideological basis of government legitimacy. From a broad and relatively unforced Islamic stress, the ruling family had to promote the "national myth": seeing themselves as members of a defined national entity, ordinary citizens became more likely to expect a share in decision-making.

The immediate consequences are gradually becoming apparent. Pressure within the kingdom has grown for the creation of a consultative assembly — this was first promised 29 years ago, and a building was constructed in 1980, but even this half-measure has not yet been implemented. And recently Islamic scholars and clerics circulated a petition calling on the king to widen public political participation and accountability.

### Other constraints on defence

Neither can the Saudi security dilemma be resolved by maintaining a high level of dependence on outside military assistance. The Western nations might be able and willing, as long as costs are covered by GCC states, to deploy naval and air units in the Gulf on a permanent basis, along with pre-positioned "material" for ground troops. But funds are no longer available as they used to be; the Saudi government has resorted to deficit spending every year since the late 1970s, and now may have liquidifiable assets worth no more than \$30 billion.

Next door, the Kuwaiti government will be drawing on its overseas investment to cover its

budget for at least two years to come. In the light of the costs of the Gulf war, reconstruction and Kuwaiti oil fires — at a time of declining oil revenues in real terms — the prospect is one of decreasing financial solvency throughout the Gulf (and by extension, the Arab World). Naturally, this also limits reliance on high-tech (high-cost) defence.

In this respect, Arab military assistance such as that offered by Egypt and Syria might appear more cost-effective. Conceivably, Arab troops would bolster Saudi and GCC defences in the initial phase of a crisis, until additional Western forces could arrive. But

"The fundamental problem in the Gulf is that the ruling elites do not wish to dilute their power, nor distribute their wealth more widely, by developing the innate dimension of security. To do so would involve reforming local social and political systems and allowing much wider public participation, in order to reinforce political allegiance and mobilise greater military resources. In spurning this option and in maintaining their reliance on acquired strength, Gulf rulers are following a course that is inherently self-defeating, if only because financial constraints are likely to make reliance on high-tech military defence increasingly problematic."

besides possible doubts concerning the effectiveness of Egyptian or Syrian troops and equipment, the GCC states cannot assure themselves that this will be a really lasting and dependable arrangement, unless they are in turn willing to guarantee their Arab partners certain rewards in exchange.

The traditional problem of all Arab countries that are labour or troop donors to the oil-rich Gulf states is that they have had no assurance of dependable financial aid or forceful diplomatic support. This contributed in the past to the dramatic shift in policy by Egyptian President Sadat — turning his back on what he saw as Gulf miserliness and concluding a separate peace with Israel in 1979 — and more recently has led Egypt and Syria to pull their troops out of the Gulf since the cease-fire with Iraq. Nor is there a real prospect of the Gulf rulers committing themselves economically to their Arab brethren in return for major military support, the latest rhetorical reassurances by Kuwaiti, Saudi and Egyptian officials notwithstanding.

### The unwanted challenge of self-reliance

The core dilemma for the Gulf states is how to resolve the dichotomy between the innate and acquired dimensions of security.

At the domestic level, innate strength stems from such factors as political cohesion and social harmony, while the military power of national armed forces is in this sense acquired. In regional terms, the parallel contrast is between the armed defence that a given country provides itself and the added strength deployed by outside powers.

The fundamental problem in the Gulf is that the ruling elites do not wish to dilute their power, nor distribute their wealth more widely, by developing the innate dimension of security. To do so would involve reforming local social and political systems and allowing much wider public participation, in order to reinforce political allegiance and mobilise greater military resources. In spurning this option and in maintaining their reliance on acquired strength, Gulf rulers are following a course that is inherently self-defeating, if only because financial constraints are likely to make reliance on high-tech military defence increasingly problematic.

Another indication of government cupidity — in addition to resisting democratisation — is the consistent refusal of Gulf states to integrate Arab expatriate workers and professionals into local societies. Such a process would have strengthened national security and provided the basis for stronger military defence prior to the eruption of the Gulf crisis. In part, this would have removed the constant suspicion that guest communities harboured a potential "fifth column", and in part it would have enlarged the general population base and the skilled manpower pool.

One option might have been to transform a significant slice of the expatriate manpower pool that provides support services throughout the Gulf — already massively involved as foreign per-

sonnel in security, defence and administration — into nationals. Of course some Gulf nationals would object that this suggestion would dilute their Kuwaiti, Saudi, Qatari (etc) identities. Taking this objection into account, the Gulf monarchies, and indeed all Arab states would have done well to consider adopting an integrative model whereby guests would not acquire the nationality or political rights of their hosts but would enjoy freedom of residence, movement and employment.

Either option above would have given Arab expatriates in the Gulf a real stake in the future

surprising, therefore, that official Saudi and Kuwaiti statements since August 1990 should have explicitly rejected the option of integration.

### Umbilical cord to the West

In the view of many in both the Gulf and the West, the Gulf emirates can evade the implications of their security dilemma. For a start, there is no imminent external threat, and the Western protective strategic umbrella will ward off any danger for the foreseeable future. And with the present focus on maintaining oil supplies and increasing Saudi production capacity, few are asking piercing questions about the less-than-rosy financial future of the region or about the actual ability of Gulf states to acquire high-tech weaponry or run their economies along broadly the same lines as before.

Furthermore, a common attitude is, first, that the Gulf states can and should get by with fewer expatriates. And, second, that there is an assured supply of Asians willing to work with no guaranteed or permanent rights, so there is no need to hire many Arab expatriates, let alone integrate them. The overall implication being that the Gulf states can isolate themselves from their region and connect themselves instead to the West by an umbilical cord that carries oil in one direction and commodities, services and protection in the other.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that government's approach in dealing with the questions of weak economy, unemployment and social justice which have been on the minds of the public, can decide on the success or failure of the present government. Nazih noted that the new government have given promises to deal with these pressing issues and to open the way for all political parties to participate, and it remains to be seen if the promises will be fulfilled.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said Saturday is the date expected by the public to hear a government announcement for the termination of the martial law in the country. Salameh Ekour said that, should this happen, the new government would have started its mandate with a major achievement, and opened the door for all political groups and parliamentary blocs to increase their positive activities in the course of achieving the common goals.

Ekour said that no one has the right to level any accusations at or throw suspicion on the government by saying that the struggle for Palestine has now been transferred into the interior of Palestine and is being waged by the intifada. He said that all the forces in Lebanon should direct their guns towards Israel to force it to evacuate the occupied Lebanese territory.

Al Ra'i said in an editorial that all the pledges given by Washington about the peace process between Lebanon and the PLO was totally unnecessary, and a dialogue should have ended all hostilities. The writer said that the struggle for Palestine has now been transferred into the interior of Palestine and is being waged by the intifada. He said that all the forces in Lebanon should direct their guns towards Israel to force it to evacuate the occupied Lebanese territory.

Sahab said Saturday the readers' attention to the members of parliament and said that the voters are no more interested in or attracted by eloquent speeches by any parliamentarian or candidate for parliament. Writing in Al Ra'i, the columnist said the coming extraordinary session of parliament should serve as an arena for deputies to prove their skill in handling pressing issues and doing real service to the country.

Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist also with Al Ra'i, criticised the Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ahmad Azaideh for issuing a statement in which he hinted that his group declined to join the present government because it came to open negotiations with Israel, simply because the new government has already announced it will adhere to the international legitimacy and will call for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Sahab Abdul Samad turned the readers' attention to the members of parliament and said that the voters are no more interested in or attracted by eloquent speeches by any parliamentarian or candidate for parliament. Writing in Al Ra'i, the columnist said the coming extraordinary session of parliament should serve as an arena for deputies to prove their skill in handling pressing issues and doing real service to the country.

The American president should declare to the world his plans for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict if he is really serious about this process, said Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The writer said he defies the American president to openly declare America's plan for ending the conflict and committing Washington to the achievement of peace. Unless he does that, said Ekour, the American president is opening the way for a new war in the area.

A columnist in Al Dastour said that with the attack on the Israeli commandos in Kashmir, the Palestine question has assumed its real and worldwide Islamic dimension. Fahd Al Rimawi noted that the Palestinians have proved unable to liberate their land on their own and in view of America's open alliance with Israel, there can be no alternative for the Arabs and Muslims but to widen the scope of this conflict and involve millions of Muslims in the task of liberating their shires.

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A columnist in Al Dastour called on the Jordanian security services to submit a statement to the government about its policies in detaining citizens especially politicians, and said that the public has the right to know why some people are being arrested. Mohammad Daoud said that politicians, like other citizens, are liable to be arrested, but under the climate of democracy, the public should be informed of the reasons behind the arrest. He said that politicians and others have rights that should not be overlooked.

The question of unemployment was again tackled by columnists, with Mohammad Daoud expressing dismay over the ineffective measures to deal with this chronic issue. The columnist said that many studies and surveys were conducted showing that 30 percent of the total work force is unemployed, but nothing has been done to address the situation.

The United States is committed to review its sanctions, including an investment ban, when apartheid is abolished and the last political prisoners have been freed.

"I think what we are seeing is the last gasp of opposition to the normalisation of South Africa's position. The international mood has changed to one of encouragement and realistic

De Klerk rejects redistribution, calls for economic growth

CAPE TOWN (R) — Creative investment for growth and not redistribution of wealth is the key to South Africa's future, President F.W. De Klerk said in an interview.

Mr. De Klerk told Reuters the final removal of Western trade and investment sanctions would help the country to resume economic growth after eight years of stagnation.

He said all South Africans would have to make sacrifices during the transition from white rule to a non-racial democracy, but taking from the rich and giving to the poor would "kill the goose that lays the golden eggs."

"We are fundamentally opposed to the idea of a redistribution of wealth, of taking away from those who have and giving it to others. We think that is the road to disaster," he said.

Mr. Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said in March it wanted a massive increase in personal and corporate taxes and limited nationalisation to close the wealth gap, which is amongst the highest in the world.

The movement has also demanded the return of land seized under apartheid as a programme of affirmative action to help blacks make up for the economic cost of segregation.

Mr. De Klerk said economic restructuring would go further.

"We think the size of the cake must be increased through growth, through development and through special programmes aimed at creating opportunities for the disadvantaged, for the suffering as a result of back-

He said that the Palestinians have the right to defend themselves from another Sabra and Shatila massacre at the hands of the

## This week in print

JORDANIAN newspapers in the past week tackled questions that would be on the agenda of the new government of Prime Minister Taher Masri, the situation in Lebanon, the Middle East question and several domestic issues of concern to the Jordanian people.

A columnist in Al Dastour said that the present government is a coalition cabinet, comprising various political groups and is designed to put into action the principles and ideas contained in the National Charter. The writer, Hamadeh Farahat, said every political party will now have its chance to prepare for the 1993 general elections, and the door is open for all political factions to offer real political service to the nation.

Another columnist in Al Ra'i said that the liquidation of the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon can close on the heels of the Gulf war, and the process of liquidating the Palestinians in Kuwait. The writer said the Palestinians who continue to face Israel's repression in the occupied territories are facing equal atrocities at the hands of their Arab kinmen in Kuwait and Lebanon. But two other columnists in Al Ra'i have other views, and both call on the Palestinians to end the fighting and opt for an end to hostilities with the Lebanese.

Abdul Rahim Omar said that the Palestinians are refugees and not occupiers and they have to welcome Lebanon's drive to restore the country's unity and national sovereignty. The writer said the Palestinians should take into account the Lebanon's difficult

# Television brightens Chinese homes

By Geng Zhi

A TEENAGER standing on a pile of bricks watched television for hours through his neighbours' window. Tired, he stumbled and fell on the ground in the dark, startling the people inside. To his amazement, he was invited in.

That was 13 years ago. Now Liu Jianjun, the boy, is a physician in a Beijing hospital. He has his own colour TV set to enjoy with his wife and son. However, he says, "I will never forget how I was attracted by television at that time."

The feeling was true for many. A dozen years ago, even black-and-white televisions were luxuries that most Chinese families could not afford. Going to a neighbour's to watch television in the evening was the order of the day. Among the lucky families that had TV sets, some resented the visitors, while others invited three or four families to watch.

For years, a TV set remained at the top of the shopping list for most families especially for newlyweds. Some families even borrowed money to buy TV sets to please their children. "Our

clothes were out of fashion but we replaced our black-and-white set with colour receiver two years ago," says Cui Wei, a fitter in the Jiamusi Coal Machinery Factory in Heilongjiang province, northeast China. When he and his wife saw their five-year-old son's vivid imitation of Donald Duck, a well-known American cartoon figure, they shook with laughter and thought it was worth buying the TV set.

The end of 1970s was an economic turning point for most Chinese families. As China began adopting more flexible economic policies, people's livelihoods improved. More and more families had money to spend on TV sets and other durables, and a 10-year national television boom began.

To satisfy the growing demand for TV sets, China's television industry boosted its annual output from 520,000 units in 1978 to 24 million in 1988, making the country the world's third largest producers of television, after Japan and the United States.

Since the 1980s, China has imported 113 assembly lines for colour TV sets. Added to domestic assembly lines, the country has an annual production capacity of

15 million sets. China's television industry produces 14-, 18-, 20- and 21-inch colour sets and 9-, 12-, 14- and 17-inch black-and-white sets. The best-known brands include Panda, Peony and Kaige. In 1989 China exported 3.93 million sets to the United States, Europe and some Southeast Asian countries, according to Chinese Customs.

"We can now produce enough TV sets to meet the needs of the domestic market," says Yang Zhihe, an official in the Ministry of Machinery and Electronic Industry. "What we want is to further upgrade quality and take a bigger share of the international market."

In the past decade TV sets have become even more popular with the Chinese, who own more than 140 million sets nationwide. A recent random sampling conducted by the State Statistical Bureau shows that urban areas have 51.47 colour sets and 55.71 black-and-white ones, per 100 households, while in rural areas the number is 37.54 sets per 100 households.

To let families in all parts of the country receive clear pictures transmitted by China Central Television (CCTV), 19, 700 kilometres of microwave lines have been constructed nationwide. Since 1986 the government has launched three communications satellites and installed 15,000 TVROs, devices that pick up TV programmes from satellites and relay them to homes.

Besides CCTV in Beijing, there are now 421 other television stations owned by local governments, which produce their own programmes as well as act as relay stations for CCTV. Sharing 56 frequency channels, independent stations at central, provincial, municipal and county levels form a cooperative network that serves 75 per cent of China's 1.1 billion people.

National minorities in remote areas such as Xinjiang, Tibet and Inner Mongolia not only watch CCTV but also enjoy programmes in their own languages translated and dubbed by local stations from a special channel.

The CCTV news broadcast at 7 p.m. every day has a viewer rating of more than 50 per cent, the highest in China. During this dinner-time programme, family members watch 30 minutes of local, national and international

news. "We can see what happens in the world everyday just sitting at home," says Yu Liangsheng, a government employee in Guangyang County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China. In a letter to CCTV, he says that the conversation and laughter of his wife and three daughters while watching television create "a very harmonious family atmosphere" he likes best.

In rural areas where few cinemas and other entertainment facilities exist, television seems indispensable. "Without television, life is like a pot of dish without salt," says Han Xiuwen, a farmer in Pingshan county in Hebei province, north China. "Since we bought a TV set, the life pattern of eating, working and sleeping has changed."

For many families, television is also a means of education since China's regular universities cannot provide enough opportunities. The Central Broadcasting and Television University offers 148 courses and telecasts lessons six hours a day through CCTV. Opened in 1979, the university has enrolled 1.7 million students with diplomas granted to almost 1 million.



China Central Television building in Peking

ought to be a priority."

More immediate and crucial to the future of the organisation will be the next secretary-general, who must be appointed by the end of the year. The job has been described as an "impossible task" that only a "super-human" could fulfill. Says Younes, who works very closely with the secretary-general: "The ideal candidate has to have a lot of patience, stamina and sticking power. He has to have independence from all the major powers." Adds Gardner:

"He has to be a fine diplomat, a good manager of the system and also someone who can use the bully pulpit to speak on TV and the mass media to the people of the world and challenge world leaders."

During its 45-year history the U.N. has had five secretaries-general: Trygve Lie of Norway (1946-53), Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden (1953-1961), U Thant of Burma (1961-1971), Kurt Waldheim of Austria (1971-1981) and Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru (1981-1991). Mr. Lie once described the U.N.'s top position as "the most impossible job on earth."

The Erskine-Urqhart study makes a series of detailed suggestions regarding the choice of secretary general and proposes that he should be backed up by the creation of posts for three vice-secretaries-general. It also suggests that a single seven-year term should be introduced (to replace the five-year renewable term) so that the secretary-general does not spend the last part of his term distracted by political pressure and the search for ways to guarantee his re-election.

While there is no specific provision in the charter, many officials inside the U.N. publicly agree that "it is Africa's turn," because it is the only continent that has not produced a secretary-general. Several names have been floated, but many observers argue that this idea should not get in the way. Gardner is one: "It's absolute nonsense to talk about a certain region of the world being entitled to the position. There is only one criteria: who is the best person for the job." The search is on — World News Link.

## The United Nations ponders future role

Although 159 countries have accepted the U.N. Charter, there is a growing demand for the creation of a special force and the convening, if necessary, of "Military Staff Committees" provided for by the U.N. Charter but never used. Military action would be jointly coordinated by the army heads of the five permanent members of the Security Council (United States, Britain, France, China and the USSR).

Adds Columbia University's Professor Richard Gardner, a foremost U.S. expert on the U.N.: "One of the priorities is to develop a rapid-deployment force capable of going into conflict areas when needed. I see it as a force of 50,000 drawn from 20 to 30 U.N. member states. In a crisis, the secretary-general and the Security Council could call on the mix of countries that seems most appropriate for that particular situation."

Concurrent with this is a series of proposals outlined in a document known as "The Stockholm Initiative on Global Security and Governance," put forward by a group of former and current heads of state as well as top officials of a number of international institutions like the World Bank. Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who heads the group, recently presented the document to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. It calls for "a global emergency system" and stresses the need for reinforced information built as a "global watch" to ensure that the secretary-general is alerted as soon as trouble is brewing. (Other members of the group include Benazir Bhutto, Vaclav Havel, Julius Nyerere, Edward Heath, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the World Bank's Enrique Iglesias and Ingvar Carlsson.)

Until now the U.N.'s peacekeeping role has often been like that of the doctor in the emergency room trying to deal with the mess after the damage has been done. "We need more preventive diplomacy," says Ambassador Eliasson, who also believes that the U.N. should set a "high standard for the respect of international law" and act as a deterrent to those tempted to break it.

With the election of a new secretary-general due by the end of the year, and the 50th anniversary of the U.N. coming up in 1995, the organisation is under review. So is its role in guaranteeing security, following its high-profile position during the Gulf war. "The U.N. stands for peace," says Younes, but many argue that practical steps are necessary to ensure that the U.N. can act fast to defuse future conflicts. Jan Eliasson, an experienced diplomat who is Sweden's ambassador to the U.N., argues: "The U.N. should function like a fire brigade, it should react automatically in an emergency situation."

How that can become a reality

election?" asks Eliasson.

Other challenges face the organisation, and experts are particularly concerned about the growing imbalance between the industrialised countries of the North and the underdeveloped South. Says spokeswoman Younes:

"Solving the social and economic problems will depend on an order that takes into account the problems of the South and recognises that if you don't solve them, the North and the rest of the world will be in turmoil for a long time. We are by no means close to solving these problems."

Meeting such challenges calls for the allocation of greater resources to promote development and increased cooperation between the U.N. and other international bodies such as the World Bank, regional development banks and multilateral agencies.

Priorities must be identified and remedies pursued. Professor Gardner cites one of many examples:

"One of the greatest failures of the past 30 years concerns population control, the lack of which is dooming development efforts. I would favour a tripling of resources from international and domestic sources for family planning and maternal and child care. If we don't do that, prospects for the Third World countries are really very dismal."

Adds Younes: "Social and economic problems took the back stage. If you look at Africa today, the situation has regressed; it is far more dramatic than 10 years ago. Africa was shamed to the back because of what was going on in Eastern Europe in recent years. It is still at the back, although the situation has never been as bleak as it is today."

Many experts stress that the U.N. could greatly increase its efficiency in the social and economic fields through greater cooperation among its own specialised agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). "We need a better international division of labour. Every organisation needs to be streamlined and modernised," says Eliasson. "We must use the U.N. machinery to its maximum and draw on the resources that exist. There are so many experts, loyal and devoted people inside the U.N. who are looking for the right thing to do."

Equally, says critics, there is a plenty of "dead wood" in the organisation — the product of decades of politicking and favouritism. Eliasson and others defend the U.N. against critics who see it as a bloated bureaucracy full of people who are paid inflated salaries to churn out tonnes of paper that nobody reads. Argues Younes: "People find it very easy to criticise bureaucrats; some may be good, others bad, but you can't generalise with an



Nadia Younes, spokeswoman for the U.N. secretary-general, believes that if properly applied the U.N. charter is the key to future stability and peace throughout the world (WNL photo).

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Financial Markets		Jordanian			
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close			
Date 5/7/91	4/7/1991				
Sterling Pound	1.6063	1.6030			
Deutsche Mark	1.8295	1.8357			
Swiss Franc	1.5800	1.5830			
French Franc	6.2015	6.2175**			
Japanese Yen	139.55	139.40			
European Currency Unit	1.1230	1.1208			
*USD per SGD **European Opening or 1000 A.M. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 4/7/1991					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.43	6.06	6.37		
Sterling Pound	11.37	11.12	10.81		
Deutsche Mark	8.90	9.07	9.25		
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.81	7.81		
French Franc	9.62	9.68	9.62		
Japanese Yen	7.46	7.59	7.46		
European Currency Unit	9.64	10.03	10.00		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals Date: 4/7/1991					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	570.00	7.10	Silver	4.50	.10
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 4/7/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.689	.691			
Sterling Pound	1.1058	1.1113			
Deutsche Mark	.3761	.3780			
Swiss Franc	.4357	.4379			
French Franc	.1110	.1116			
Japanese Yen	.4953	.4958			
Dutch Guilder	.3341	.3358			
Swedish Krona	.1041	.1046			
Italian Lira	.0506	.0509			
Belgian Franc	.01829	.01838			
* Per 100 Currencies Date: 4/7/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Rahrah Dinar	1.8100	1.8350			
Lebanese Lira	.0750	.0770			
Saudi Riyal	.1835	.1843			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1862	.1875			
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000			
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.7900			
UAE Dirham	.1862	.1875			
Greek Drachma	.3350	.3500			
Cypriot Pound	1.3770	1.4070			
** Per 100 CAB indices for American Financial Markets					
Index	2/7/1991 Close	3/7/1991 Close			
All-Share	112.17	112.13			
Banking Sector	106.35	106.35			
Insurance Sector	118.47	119.34			
Industry Sector	118.42	118.36			
Services Sector	129.51	129.13			

## Nepal's king promises reforms, bigger role for the private sector

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's King Birendra has promised economic reforms, including a bigger role for the private sector in the Himalayan kingdom's industrial development.

Addressing the first joint session of the newly-elected parliament, King Birendra outlined to the new Nepali congress the government's policies and said priority would be given to uplifting the rural population.

"In the view of my government, only when the fruits of economic development reach the poor and destitute within the framework of the well-accepted system, will democracy thrive and be lasting in the country," he said.

The king said the economy could no longer sustain a bloated administrative structure and redundant agencies would close.

Political analysts say the new government's policies as outlined by the king are a break with the long-held socialist tradition of the Nepali congress.

King Birendra said the private sector could play a bigger role in industries and tourism and hinted that the monopoly of the state

owned airline, Royal Nepal Airlines, might also end.

The king said his government would give priority to improving the life of the rural population.

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## Britain's Labour Party trounces hard left rebels

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party smashed a by-election challenge Friday from leftist rebels who have appeared to threaten its national bid for power.

Party leader Neil Kinnock hailed a poor showing by a Trotskyite who lost to his official candidate in a Liverpool parliamentary constituency as "terminal" for the rebel militant tendency.

Labour hopes to unseat the Conservative government at a general election due within a year.

But Mr. Kinnock needed to smash the militant in its stronghold of Liverpool to help convince voters nationally that he can purge Labour of extremism.

In the event, Labour's Peter Kilfoyle won Liverpool's Walton constituency with 21,317 votes in voting that took place on Thursday. A centrist Liberal Democrat was runner-up with 14,457.

Militant's Lesley Mahmood managed only 2,613 votes, fewer than expected.

She vowed her group which Mr. Kinnock once called "the maggot in the bony politic" would fight on.

"Militancy is in the bones... of the people of Liverpool because of the social conditions here," she said.

The city was once a thriving centre of world trade but it has

decayed in recent years.

"Mr. Kinnock has expelled more than 150 people from the Labour Party, mostly militant supporters, and more expulsions are now expected in Liverpool.

Conservative fortunes have improved in recent opinion polls but Labour still maintains a narrow lead.

The Conservative candidate in Walton, Berkeley Greenwood, got a humiliating 1,155 votes, the lowest by a Conservative in a by-election since 1918.

The seat had been left vacant by the death of left-wing Labour parliamentarian Eric Heffer.

While Labour retained the seat and Conservatives fared badly, Heffer's majority of 23,000 was slashed by two-thirds by Liberal Democrat runner-up Paul Clark.

Some politicians said the militant throng in Labour's side had not necessarily been removed.

For nearly 40 years the Trotskyite strategy had been to infiltrate Labour with the aim of taking it over. Thursday was the first time they had challenged it for a parliamentary seat.

Deputy Labour leader Roy Hattersley said a crushing victory for Labour in Walton would finally "lay the ghost of militant and all who support it."

But Labour rebels around Britain, in particular in Glasgow, Scotland, and Brighton in southern England, may challenge Kin-

## Yeltsin aims blow at union treaty

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Friday proposed a series of fundamental changes to the Kremlin's draft union treaty, delivering a serious blow to the battered plan to keep the Soviet Union together.

The amendments, contained in a resolution from the Russian leadership sent to the republic's parliament, would undermine central control of taxation and foreign trade.

In brief remarks to the session, Yeltsin said he had secured the backing of the nine republics now considering the treaty for four of the five changes in the draft.

He said the fifth, a demand for republican control of taxation — with a fixed amount then passed on to the centre — had the support of the Ukraine, the union's second most powerful republic.

"All nine republics were united in their disagreement on four points, I mean the points that our resolution contains," Yeltsin told the parliament.

The six other Soviet republics — the three Baltic republics, plus Moldova, Armenia and Georgia — have refused to discuss the new union treaty, saying they want independence.

Yeltsin said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was alone at the "nine-plus-one" talks earlier this week in opposing the proposed amendments.

Neo-conservative deputy Sergei Baburin, raising one of the few objections to Yeltsin's proposal, said approval of the amendments would gut the Soviet Union.

"This resolution is an invitation to the funeral of the USSR as a federal state," Baburin told the hall.

But the radical chairman of the committee on legislation, a Yeltsin ally, said the Kremlin sought to doom Russia instead.

"It is the strategic bombing of an urban area with phosphorus bombs to produce gas casualties among unprotected personnel," one document said. Phosphorus is a highly toxic, colourless gas used to suffocate victims.

Washington scrapped the plan after Japan's unconditional surrender in August 1945, Prof. Yoshimi said.

According to the documents, the United States agreed with China's Nationalist government to use chemical weapons against Japanese cities in World War II in retaliation for the use of gas by Japan's imperial army in China.

Senior U.S. military officials planned to bomb 25 major cities, including Tokyo and Hiroshima, with mustard gas and phosphorus in late October, 1945 in preparation for an invasion, Yoshiaki Yoshimi, history professor at Tokyo's Chuo University, told Reuters.

Under the plan, called Operation Olympic, the United States planned to mobilise 848 B-29 bombers and 216 B-47 bombers to drop 100,000 tonnes of poison gas a month and kill an estimated five million people, he said.

Prof. Yoshimi based his find-

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